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By means of finding-circles at the south end of the pier, the telescope can be quickly set to the nearest minute of Right Ascension and to 5' in Declination. The Right Ascension finding-circle is driven by a sidereal clock, so that the setting is to the Right Ascension of the object sought, not to the hour-angle.

Mr. SAEGMÜLLER has lately made mountings for the 12-inch equatorials at the United States Naval Observatory, Washington, and for the LADD Observatory, Providence; and for the 9-inch equatorial of the Catholic University of America, Washington. The last edition of his printed catalogue gives plates and general descriptions of his mountings.

E. S. H.

#### LARGE REFRACTOR FOR THE OBSERVATORY OF MEUDON.

A great refractor has just been finished and placed in position for Dr. JANSSEN at Meudon. It is a combined photographic and visual telescope. The two lenses were made by the celebrated HENRY Brothers, of the Paris Observatory. The mounting is by GAUTHIER, of Paris. Both lenses will be mounted in the same tube, which is *square* and of steel. The visual objective is 82 cm. (32.3 English inches) in diameter, while the photographic objective is 63 cm. (24.8 English inches) diameter. Both lenses are of the same focal length, 17 meters (669 English inches.) The large objective will be the guiding part of the instrument when used for photography. This great telescope is housed in the ruins of the old royal palace, a part of the ruins serving as the tower for the great dome, which dome is 20 meters (66 English feet) in diameter and weighs some 60 or 80 tons. The dome is to be moved by a gas engine of 12 horse-power. The observing chair is attached to the dome and moves with it. All the fine circles are to be read from the eye-end by means of electric lights, the electricity for which is generated by an 8-horse-power engine half a mile distant, in what was formerly the royal stables.—*Scientific American*, November 18, 1893.

SUMMARY OF RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS  
FROM SEPT., 1880, TO NOV., 1893, INCLUSIVE, AT THE  
LICK OBSERVATORY [COMPILED BY C. D. PERRINE].

MONTH.	Average Rainfall.	TEMPERATURE.					
		Average Maximum.	Average Minimum.	Mean.	Highest Maximum on Record.	Lowest Minimum on Record.	Average Daily Range.
July . . . . .	0.00	79.2	60.6	69.9	94	36	18.6
August . . . . .	0.01	80.0	63.3	71.7	96	39	16.7
September . . . . .	0.30	73.5	56.1	64.8	93	30	17.4
October . . . . .	1.44	62.9	46.9	54.9	88	25	16.0
November . . . . .	2.56	56.2	41.5	48.9	88	26	14.7
December . . . . .	9.06	49.7	36.3	43.0	72	17	13.4
January . . . . .	3.85	48.4	36.6	42.5	72	14	11.8
February . . . . .	4.31	47.9	33.6	40.7	74	12	14.3
March . . . . .	5.62	51.0	37.0	44.0	80	18	14.0
April . . . . .	3.68	58.5	37.1	47.8	82	21	21.4
May . . . . .	1.76	64.0	46.9	55.5	90	28	17.1
June . . . . .	0.59	70.0	51.1	60.5	92	31	18.9
Annual . . . . .	33.18	61.8	45.6	53.7	. . .	. . .	16.2

BRIGHT METEOR (?) IN NORTH CAROLINA, DECEMBER 20, 1893.

Hon. E. S. MARTIN, of Wilmington, sends the following newspaper clipping relative to a bright meteor (?) seen in Raleigh on the morning of December 20th.

"There was a remarkable spectacle in the sky, a little south of east, early this morning, which greatly frightened the negroes. About 3 o'clock a luminous mass, about the size of a barrel, was seen in the sky, at an altitude of about 20 degrees above the horizon. It was dazzlingly white, and from its upper portion a shaft of light rose to a great height. As daylight came this shaft assumed a zigzag form. It was 6.15 o'clock when the luminous object disappeared, appearing to sink. Negroes in the country ran to the houses of white people and told them of the spectacle in the sky, and confessed their fright. Many people in this city saw the strange sight."

MISSING MAPS OF ARGELANDER'S *DURCHMUSTERUNG* WANTED.

The LICK Observatory desires to purchase maps Nos. 2, 3, 5 and 6 of ARGELANDER'S *Durchmusterung*. E. S. H.